

**Substitute Decision Making
Results from Electronic Survey
September to December 2005**

Total responses: 232

Question 1: How many clients are in need of a decision maker?

177 responses

- 158 clients are in need
- 3 clients are in need but gave % (10%; 25%; 50%)
- 1 unknown
- 1 Have program in place
- 13 No clients in need
- 1 Contact me

When asked how many (exact numbers) clients are in need, the 158 identified **44,663** individuals in need of a substitute decision maker

Question 2: How many clients need a guardian?

178 responses

- 159 clients are in need of guardian
- 6 clients are in need and gave a % (5%; 10%; 20%; 30%; 40%; 90%)
- 13 said no guardian needed

When asked how many clients are in need of a guardian, the 159 identified **8,926** clients in need.

Question 3: How many clients need a conservator?

147 responses

- 108 clients are in need of a conservator
- 4 clients in need of conservator and gave % (2%; 5%; 10%; 30%)
- 35 said no conservator was needed

When asked how many clients needed a conservator, the 108 responses identified **8,668** clients in need.

Question 4: How many clients need a financial power of attorney?

154 responses

- 115 clients needed a financial power of attorney
- 4 clients needed a financial power of attorney and gave % (1%; 5%; 5%; 10%)
- 35 said no financial power of attorney needed

When asked how many clients needed an attorney in fact under a financial power of attorney, the 115 responses identified **7,798** clients in need.

Question 5: How many clients need a durable power of attorney for health care (DPOA-HC)?

161 responses

- 135 clients needed a DPOA-HC
- 4 clients in need of a DPOA-HC and gave % (5%; 10%; 70%; 95%)
- 22 said no durable power of attorney for health care needed

When asked how many clients needed an attorney in fact under a durable power of attorney for health care, the 135 responses identified **14,115** clients in need.

Question 6: How many clients need a representative payee?

165 responses

- 135 clients needed a representative payee
- 6 clients needed a payee and gave % (5%; 5%; 10%; 75%; 99%; 100%)
- 22 said no representative payee needed
- 1 agency handles this
- 1 done by facility

When asked how many clients needed a representative payee, the 165 responses identified **16,398** clients in need.

Question 7: How many clients in need have no available or appropriate family members or friends to serve as guardian or conservator?

223 responses

- 188 clients need a guardian/conservator and have no one
- 6 clients need a guardian/conservator and gave %
(1/2 to 3/4; 10%; 30%; 40%; 50%; 95%)
- 22 said no clients fit this category
- 1 many
- 1 several
- 1 varies
- 2 unknown
- 2 very few

When asked how many clients needed a guardian or conservator and had no one to serve, the 188 responses identified **19,188** clients in need.

Question 8: How many clients could benefit from a power of attorney document and currently have the capacity to sign but have no one to appoint?

218 responses

- 150 clients could use a power of attorney
- 8 clients could use and gave %
(about 1/2; 80%; 50%; 90%; 20%; 30%; 5%; 25%)
- 51 said no clients fit this category
- 4 unknown
- 1 varies
- 1 unsure
- 1 several
- 1 too many
- 1 very few

When asked how many clients could benefit from a power of attorney and had capacity to sign one but had no one to appoint, the 150 responses identified **9,027** clients in need.

Question 9: Have you noticed any clients are receiving a level of care higher than needed and cannot be moved because no substitute decision maker exists?

35 responses

- 28 felt client received higher level of care than necessary
- 1 ¼ of total population receives higher level of care than necessary
- 1 variable
- 2 unknown
- 1 client not moved because level of care is convenient for guardian
- 2 said no clients receiving unnecessary level of care

When asked how many clients actually received higher level of care than necessary, the 28 responses identified **1,426** clients.

Question 10: Are you concerned that some of your clients will need a decision maker to assist in choosing an appropriate Medicare prescription drug plan and have no one?

108 responses

- 92 clients will need help
- 3 all clients will need help
- 1 many will need help
- 1 several will need help
- 1 ½ seniors work with
- 1 hard to understand even with help
- 3 clients will need help and gave % (5%; 15%; 50%)
- 5 unknown
- 1 provider will help

When asked how many clients will be affected, the 92 responses identified **14,640** clients in need.

Question 11: Are you aware of resources that were available to pay the last expenses or other debts but no one was available to probate the estate?

33 responses

21 were aware of resources

Other comments:

- unknown, II
- Funeral home handled arrangements and landlord dispensed the property
- Went unpaid
- An office worker volunteered to do it
- No payments have been made
- About a quarter of the total
- Attorneys were appointed, II
- Friends tried to help
- Found a volunteer, eventually II
- The nursing home applied for burial assistance
- Money went to the State of Iowa, III
- Went towards funeral expenses and the rest was donated to the agency
- Most often handled by the payee
- Funds returned to Social Security or State of Iowa
- Distant relatives stepped forward
- We figured it out
- Probated
- Family farm was sold due to negligence of the executor
- Administrator acted on their behalf
- Funds are still open, turned over to Estate Recovery

General comment from a worker from a specialized residential setting:

I am not currently working in the health care field but I felt the need to comment. When I was working in the field, some of the most challenging situations we faced in administration was in trying to find help for individuals who were impaired to the point they were no longer able to be their own advocate. It is difficult to find individuals to help when there is no family or friend willing to serve as a decision maker.